

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3803

S E C R E T MANILA 6197

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, RD

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 110811

1. I AM PLEASED WITH THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND COGENT NATURE OF REFTEL, WHICH INDICATES THAT YOU ARE COMING TO GRIPS WITH PARTICULAR DETAILS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS IN POSITIVE TERMS. I SHALL ATTEMPT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS IN SAME SPIRIT IN HOPE WE CAN ACCOMPLISH SOME MOVEMENT AS SOON AS PRESIDENT MARCOS RETURNS FROM INDONESIA.

2. FIRST, I AGREE THAT TEAM SHOULD BE ABLE TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC TRADE CONCESSION ITEMS WHEN IT COMES TO MANILA. THIS DOES NOT RPT NOT HOWEVER MEAN THAT TEAM SHOULD NECESSARILY HAVE PLENIPOTENTIARY AUTHORITY TO AGREE ON THOSE ITEMS. DISCUSSION COULD DEVELOP LISTS AD REFERENDUM, FOR SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER FORM OF NEGOTIATION. MOREOVER, DELAY IN DEVELOPMENT OF LIST OF CONCESSION ITEMS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT DELAY SUBMISSION OF TEXT OF DRAFT TREATY (WITH PRODUCTS AND DUTY RATES BLANK) TO FILIPINOS FOR THEIR STUDY.

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3. SECOND, RE PARA 5 REFTEL, I HEARTILY CONCUR THAT YOU

SHOULD BEGIN PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS ON SPECIFIC TRADE ITEMS AND THAT YOU SHOULD DO IT ON BASIS THAT AUTHORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION IS EXPECTED TO COME FROM PASSAGE AND REQUIREMENTS OF TRA. YOU SHOULD ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT SOME MEMBERS MAY BE ASTUTE ENOUGH TO ASK WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF TRA NOT RPT NOT PASSED. IN THAT EVENT, YOU SHOULD NOT RPT NOT DECEIVE MEMBERS BY DISSEMBLING PROSPECT THAT WE MAY WISH TO SEEK LEGISLATION BECAUSE PHILIPPINE CASE IS SUI GENERIS.

4. RE PARA 6 REFTTEL, I REMAIN UNCONVINCED BY LOGIC OF THOSE WHO SEE THESE NEGOTIATIONS AS THREAT TO, RATHER THAN SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE OF TRA. IN MY JUDGMENT, THERE IS FAR GREATER SUPPORT AMONG US BUSINESS INTERESTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH PHILIPPINES THAN THERE IS OPPOSITION TO SUCH NEGOTIATIONS, AND I ASSUME THEREFORE THAT BUSINESS BALANCE WILL FAVOR RATHER THAN OPPOSE TRA AS CONSEQUENCE THESE NEGOTIATIONS. MOREOVER, I KNOW OF NO RPT NO "VOCAL US BUSINESS AND TRADE INTERESTS" WHICH COULD SEE THEMSELVES ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY COMMODITIES YOU ARE CONSIDERING FOR CONCESSIONS.

5. I AM PLEASED THAT YOU ARE PREPARING PAPERS TO OBTAIN SECRETARY'S CONCURRENCE IN DECISION TO BEGIN CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS SOONEST. I ASSUME YOU WILL POINT OUT UNIQUE FEATURES OF PHILIPPINE CASE, BUT WILL ALSO STRESS THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN AGREEMENT CONTINGENT UPON CONGRESSIONAL ACTION PARALLELS EXAMPLE ALREADY ACHIEVED IN US-SOVIET UNDERSTANDINGS.

6. WE EARLIERLY AWAIT PRODUCT LISTS WHICH YOU ARE DEVELOPING AND WILL SHORTLY SEND YOU OUR COMMENTS ON PROSPECTS FOR ACTION WITH RESPECT US AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO PHILIPPINES. I STRESS AGAIN, HOWEVER, THAT OVEREMPHASIS ON THIS POINT COULD BE DANGEROUSLY IRRELEVANT TO MAIN PURPOSES OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH HAVE TO DO WITH PROTECTION OF AND SAFEGUARDS FOR US BUSINESS INVESTMENT IN PHILIPPINES. SULLIVAN

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